



# countdown

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## Crew arrival Wednesday signals launch countdown imminent

## Space station crew members named for 2009 Soyuz launch



### ◆ Shuttle Update:

The STS-124 crew is expected to arrive at Kennedy at 11:30 a.m. May 28 to prepare for launch. The Health

Stabilization Program will be in effect while the crew is at the center.

◆ **ISS Update:** NASA and its international partners have assigned two crew members to the Expedition 20 International Space Station mission. NASA astronaut Timothy J. Creamer, a colonel in the U.S. Army, and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Soichi Noguchi will launch on a Soyuz spacecraft in November 2009.

Creamer will be making his first trip to space. Creamer and Noguchi will join the Expedition 20 mission in progress and remain aboard the space station for six months as flight engineers. Creamer also will serve as a NASA science officer. Other members of the Expedition 20 crew have yet to be named.

Expedition 20 will continue assembly of the station as well as outfit the orbiting complex with spare parts and supplies.

■ **NASA Honors** — NASA will honor the late astronaut John "Jack" L. Swigert Jr. with the presentation of an Ambassador of Exploration Award for his involvement in the U.S. space program. During a ceremony with Apollo 13 spacecraft commander James Lovell at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum in Denver on Friday, Swigert's sister Virginia will accept the award and present it for display to the

museum. The award presentation will highlight the opening of the museum's new exhibit on Colorado's astronauts.

NASA is giving the Ambassador of Exploration Award to the first generation of explorers in the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo space programs for realizing America's goal of going to the moon. The award is a moon rock encased in Lucite and mounted for public display. The rock is part of the 842 pounds of lunar samples collected during the six Apollo expeditions from 1969 to 1972.

Swigert died in December 1982.



■ **BEST BBQ Events** — *Home-made Dessert Contest:* Here's your chance at bake-off bragging rights!

Prizes will be awarded. For more information or to sign up, please contact *Janice Everett* at 867-8421.

*Others:* A spades tournament, cake walk, 3-legged race, intern scavenger hunt, karaoke, volleyball, intern vs. employee tug-o-war, and more are planned. There will be prizes!

To sign up for the spades tournament or for more information, please contact *T.C. Williams* at 476-3648 or *Gloria Y. Johnson* at 867-9150. For information about other events, please contact *Brittani Sims* at 476-4000.

■ **NASA Science** — NASA astronomers have been watching the moon to see how often meteoroids crash into the lunar surface, and they've just video-recorded their 100th explosion. This surprisingly bountiful dataset allows researchers to

start drawing conclusions about when, where, and how often the moon gets hit. Read the full story at:

[http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/21may\\_100explosions.htm?list29875](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/21may_100explosions.htm?list29875).

■ **Sky Gazing** — If you've never seen the International Space Station flying 220 miles overhead, this is the week to do so. The station will be in almost constant sunlight through Friday, offering an incredible view to sky gazers across the country. In order to find out when the station will be visible over your city, visit: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/sightings>.

■ **Memorial Day Holiday Badging Schedule** — The Visitor Records Center at HQ/Room 1470 will be open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. with minimal staffing. PIDS I at CCAFS, PIDS III at Kennedy and F-Gate will be closed. Normal hours return at 6 a.m. May 27.

■ **PM Challenge 2009 Call for Speakers Is Open** — Connect and discover! Do you have a topic of interest to NASA program and project management stakeholders? Then submit your speaker proposal for PM Challenge 2009. You can find out more about it at: <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/speaker2009.htm>.

*Countdown* will not be published May 27 due to the Memorial Day Holiday May 26.

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